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THE WEEK
Junior

Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

ANCIENT WONDER

Discover the marvel and mystery of the Giza pyramids p12



DID YOU KNOW?

- The pyramids are located in Giza, Egypt.
- They were built thousands of years ago.
- The largest is made of 2.3 million blocks of stone.



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

China has been officially known as the People's Republic of China since 1949.



A protest in China

China fact file



- **CAPITAL:** Beijing
- **POPULATION:** 1.4 billion (the most populated nation)
- **SIZE:** 3.7 million square miles
- **CURRENCY:** Yuan
- **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** Mandarin
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Mountains, major rivers, a desert, and a coastline on the China Sea
- **ECONOMY:** World's largest manufacturing hub and a major figure in world trade

Protests spread across China

Beginning on November 24, protests broke out across China as citizens called for an end to the government's zero-Covid policy. The strict regulations, which have been in place since the start of the pandemic in 2020, are intended to prevent outbreaks of the virus in the nation of more than 1.4 billion people.

What is the policy?

Under zero-Covid, people who test positive for Covid-19 and their close contacts are isolated. If the virus spreads, Chinese authorities can order immediate lockdowns of apartment buildings, neighborhoods, or even entire cities or regions. The government has used barricades and blocked emergency exits to prevent people from leaving their homes. The lockdowns have caused citizens to be stranded for weeks or months and led to shortages of food and medicine. World health officials said the frequent lockdowns have not prevented outbreaks of the virus in China and may, in fact, be contributing to them. The restrictions have prevented many Chinese people from being exposed to the virus, and vaccination rates are low. That means many people have not built up immunity (resistance) to the disease.

What is happening now?

The protests began in Xinjiang province, where more than 25 million residents have been in lockdown since August. On November 24, a fire broke out in an apartment building in Urumqi, the region's capital, and 10 people died. Many Chinese people said the zero-Covid restrictions had prevented residents of the building from escaping and slowed down rescue efforts. People in Urumqi took to the streets to express their outrage, and protests soon broke out in other cities. Residents in some locked-down areas left their homes to join the demonstrations. Protesters chanted "Lift the lockdown" and "We want freedom" and called on President Xi Jinping to resign. They gathered at the People's Square in Shanghai, a shopping mall in Hangzhou, and in prominent spots in Beijing, Chengdu, Wuhan, and other cities. "We just want our basic human rights," one protester told Reuters news service.



President Xi Jinping

Why is this significant?

China is governed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which has almost total control over the people and limits basic human rights, including the ability to speak freely against the government and its leaders. The CCP also restricts social media

posts, the news, and the flow of information into, out of, and within the country. Demonstrations in China are rare because people fear the consequences, which can include violence and arrest. The protests are the largest outbreak of civil unrest since Xi became president 10 years ago.

How did officials react?

Police are on the streets in large numbers throughout the country. Some protests were peaceful, but in Shanghai and other locations, police broke up demonstrations, made numerous arrests, and mistreated protesters. In Jiangsu, university students held up cell phone flashlights and blank sheets of white paper, which are a symbol of the protests. A video recorded one official telling those protesters, "You will pay for what you did today." CCP officials defended the zero-Covid policy and said reports that lockdowns were to blame for the deaths in the fire were false.

What will happen next?

China's government said it will keep its zero-Covid policy but will stop using measures such as barricades to keep people indoors. Protesters pledged to speak out until the restrictions change. When *The Week Junior* went to press, protests in support of Chinese citizens had taken place in Taiwan, the US, the UK, Canada, and other nations.



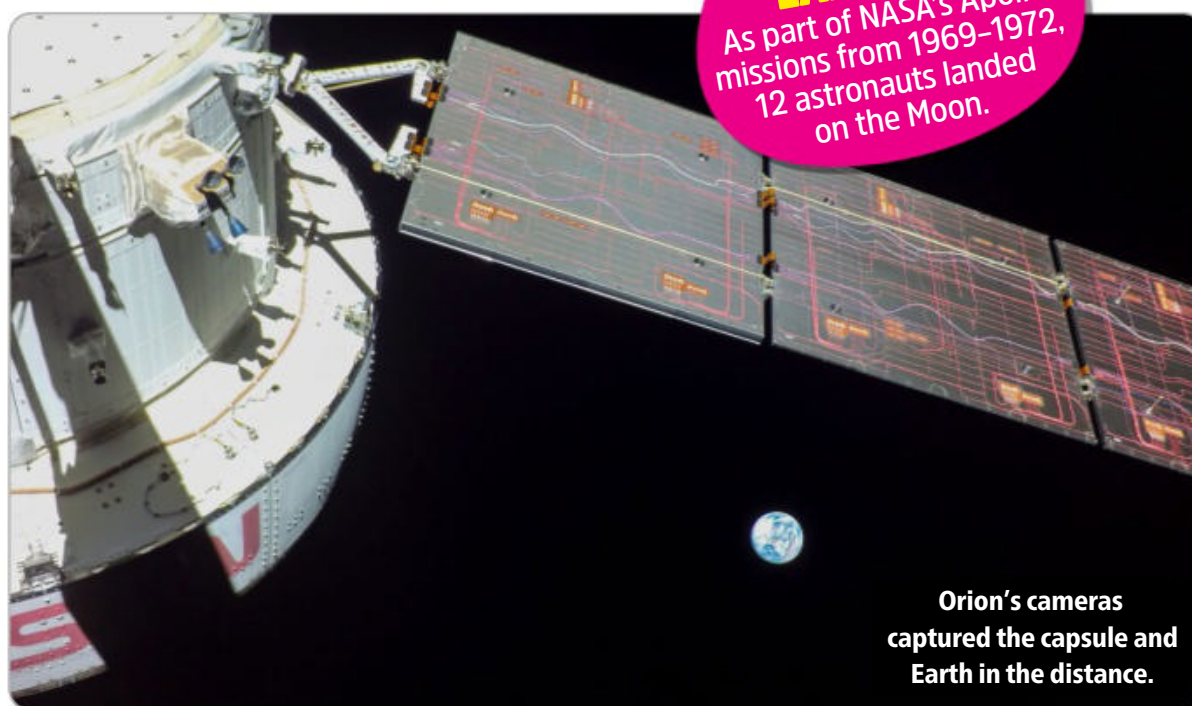
Gold coin could rewrite history

An ancient gold coin written off as fake could be real, according to scientists in the UK. They say the authenticity of the coin, which dates back about 2,000 years, also may prove the existence of the Roman emperor, named Sponsian, who is depicted on it.

The coin was found in 1713 in what is now Transylvania, an area once controlled by the Roman empire. In the 1800s, experts said it was a poorly made fake and that Sponsian never existed. The coin was kept in a museum cabinet until recently, when scientists Paul Pearson and Jesper Ericsson examined it under a powerful microscope and analyzed chemicals on it.

While many scientists still believe the coin is fake, Pearson and Ericsson said that scratches on its surface prove it was once in active use, bouncing around in coin purses. They also found evidence that it had been buried in dirt for hundreds of years. Though the details of Sponsian's life are still a mystery, the coin offers "clues as to his possible place in history," they said.

The coin



Orion's cameras captured the capsule and Earth in the distance.

Artemis 1 mission "flawless" so far

Twelve days after launching from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA's Orion space capsule had achieved three major milestones. On November 25, Orion entered the Moon's orbit. The next day, it set a record for reaching the farthest distance from Earth for a spacecraft designed to carry humans. The previous record of 248,655 miles from Earth was set by Apollo 13 in 1970. And on November 28, Orion reached its maximum distance of 270,000 miles from Earth.

Orion is part of Artemis 1, the first mission in the US space agency's Artemis program. The \$40 billion project marks NASA's first attempt to return to the Moon in nearly 50 years.

Orion is uncrewed, which gives NASA the opportunity to test its systems and performance without any astronauts on board. To enter the

lunar orbit about 40,000 to 50,000 miles above the Moon's surface, the spacecraft fired its thrusters for about 90 seconds. Orion entered a distant retrograde orbit, which means it was traveling in the opposite direction to the Moon's path around Earth. The capsule was set to orbit the Moon for about six days before heading home.

Using its onboard cameras, Orion has also beamed back images and live video of its journey, the Moon, and Earth's surface. The images can be seen at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Orion.

Orion is expected to return to Earth on December 11, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean near California. NASA officials said the mission so far was "flawless" and had exceeded their expectations. The space agency plans to send two more Artemis missions to the Moon by 2025.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A SPORTS FIRST

Olivia Pichardo, 18, is the first woman to be selected for a Division I college baseball team. The Brown University freshman, who started playing as a girl in New York City, said she's happy to be "paving the way for other girls in the next generation."



Olivia Pichardo



EXTRA GUACAMOLE

A team of 300 cooks in Peribán, Mexico, mixed up 10,957 pounds of guacamole, setting a new Guinness World Record. Made for the city's first Avocado Expo, the batch included more than 20,000 pounds of locally grown avocados, plus onions, tomatoes, peppers, lime, and cilantro.

CLEANING UP

Videos of Japanese soccer fans picking up trash at the FIFA World Cup—and the Japanese team's spotless locker room—went viral. In Japan, the thoughtful act is not unusual. "You have to leave a place cleaner than it was before," said the team's coach, Hajime Moriyasu. Fans from other countries have now been inspired to pick up their trash too.



A fan cleans.



National news



The US Capitol building

DID YOU KNOW?

In the US Senate cafeteria, the Senate bean soup has been on the menu nearly every day since 1904.

Voting begins in Georgia



In the undecided race for a US Senate seat from Georgia, Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker will face each other in a runoff election on December 6. When *The Week Junior* went to press on November 29, more than 400,000 people had already cast their ballots in early voting.

Congress faces busy year-end schedule

After Thanksgiving, the US Congress returned to work to complete what is called a lame-duck session. This is the period between Election Day and the start of the next session in January.

What is happening?

Lawmakers face pressure to act on several major legislative priorities. Democrats currently control both the Senate and House of Representatives and want to move fast before the next session, when Republicans will take control of the House. At that point, the government will be divided and it will be more difficult to push their priorities forward.

What are the priorities in the Senate?

One top priority is the Respect for Marriage Act, which guarantees federal recognition of any same-

sex marriage that is legal in the state where it took place. As *The Week Junior* went to press, the Senate was voting on the bill and expected to pass it. It will then go to the House, where it is also expected to pass, and to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. The Senate may also vote on the Electoral Count Act, which would make it more difficult for a certified Presidential election to be overturned. This bill is supported by members of both parties in the Senate, and the House will also need to take action in order for it to move forward.

What are the priorities in the House?

The House will work with the Senate to approve a spending bill that funds the US government for the year ahead. The two political parties disagree on some proposed items in the bill. Democrats

want more money for Ukraine to defend itself against Russia and for the battle against Covid-19. Some Republicans object to additional funding for Ukraine, and many oppose funding for the pandemic. Lawmakers have until December 16 to agree on the bill. The House must also work with the Senate to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which funds the US military.

What will happen next?

Members of Congress are scheduled to conduct business until December 15 in the House and December 21 in the Senate. The chambers may extend their sessions if there is unfinished business, but historically members have returned to their home states before December 25. The next Congress will begin work on January 3.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MOVIE

It's easy to forget the huge impact that movies made when they emerged as popular entertainment in the early 20th century. "Movie" is short for a "moving" or "motion" picture, and the word "cinema" is also about moving images. Cinema was named after the Greek kinēma, meaning "movement."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

December 7, 1842

New York Philharmonic holds concert

On December 7, 1842, the New York Philharmonic, the first major US symphony orchestra, held its first concert for 600 people in New York City. The concert lasted three hours and opened with Ludwig van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which had been played in the US only once before. This year, for the first time ever, more women than men were musicians in the symphony, 45 to 44.



A New York Philharmonic rehearsal this year



A view of Mauna Loa

World's largest volcano erupts

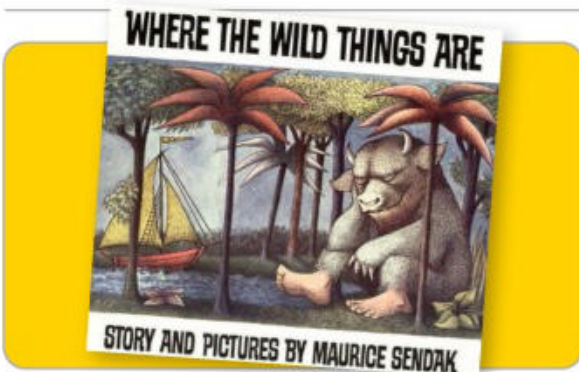
The world's largest active volcano, located in Hawaii on the Big Island, began spewing ash and lava on November 27. Occurring after a series of large earthquakes, this was the first time in 38 years that Mauna Loa erupted. Officials said the eruption wasn't threatening to most of the 200,000 residents living on the island. Those who live near Mauna Loa were advised to make emergency preparations, in case evacuation became necessary.



Wakanda Forever

Sequel dominates at box office

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, the sequel to Marvel's 2018 blockbuster *Black Panther*, topped expectations at the US box office over the Thanksgiving weekend, bringing in \$64 million. Worldwide, it has made \$676 million since November 11. *Wakanda* finished ahead of Disney's new animated feature, *Strange World*, which brought in \$11.9 million, less than had been expected.



Most borrowed books revealed

The Brooklyn Public Library released its 125 most borrowed books for its 125th anniversary. Topping the list was *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. Other children's books that made the top 10 were *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss. The library, one of the largest in the US with 61 branches, said it was "looking forward to the next chapter."



A festive scene in the Vermeil Room

NATIONAL TRADITION

The first Christmas tree known to be placed in the White House was in 1889, when Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd President, was in office.

White House decorations revealed

On November 28, First Lady Jill Biden unveiled the White House's holiday decorations. Dr. Biden chose "We the People" as the theme for this year's decorations to help the nation celebrate unity. The US Constitution, the highest US law, begins with the words "We the people," and the White House is also known as "the People's House."

The decorations include more than 83,615 holiday lights, 77 Christmas trees, 25 wreaths, and a gingerbread house created with about 40 pounds of icing. About 50,000 visitors are expected to view the decorations this year.

Each room of the White House is decorated in a different way to honor the theme. In the Blue Room, the official White House Christmas tree, standing more than 18 feet tall, is decorated with handmade renderings of the official birds of US states and territories, which represent hope. In the China Room, garlands of wooden spoons, measuring cups, and cookies celebrate family traditions.

Likenesses of the Biden family's pets, dog Commander and cat Willow, appear in the Vermeil Room (pictured above), where many of the decorations represent kindness. The State Dining Room, with a "We the Children" theme, features ornaments made by students of the 2021 Teachers of the Year. A new addition this year is a Hanukkah menorah crafted from wood saved from a White House renovation in the 1950s.

Months of work go into the holiday decorations. Dr. Biden and White House staff began planning in the spring. In late November, more than 150 volunteers helped decorate the building.

At the unveiling, Dr. Biden said this year's theme was inspired by the people she has met in visits to nearly 40 states since becoming First Lady.

"Room by room, we represent what brings us together during the holidays and throughout the year," she said. "The soul of our nation is, and always has been, 'We the People.'"



A White House entrance displays the theme.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Moose rescued from basement of Alaska home" UPI

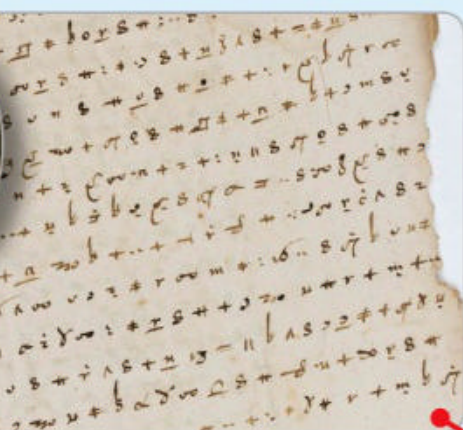




Around the world



The letter sent by Charles V



France

Letter's secret code is cracked

French scientists have cracked the secret code of a letter sent in 1547 from King Charles V of Spain, the most powerful man in Europe at the time, to his ambassador at the French royal court. The three-page letter was forgotten for centuries and recently analyzed by code breaker Cécile Pierrot and her team. After six months of study, they concluded that the letter reveals the king's fears about a secret plot to overthrow him.



Hercules beetles

Tunja, Colombia

Beetles help break down garbage

A company in Colombia is using beetle larvae (baby beetles) to help break down garbage. The tiny beetles, most of which are Hercules beetles, can chew through food waste and turn it into fertilizer. The fertilizer can then be used to help plants grow. After about four months of chewing food waste, many of the beetles are sent to Japan, where the insects are popular as household pets.



A portion of the road



Algeria

African Unity Road nears completion

A road that was first proposed more than 50 years ago to connect six countries in Africa is nearly finished. The African Unity Road, also known as the Trans-Saharan Highway, will span 3,000 miles from the city of Algiers in Algeria (North Africa) to Lagos in Nigeria (West Africa) and will boost trade. The road is also lined with cables to give people better internet access.



Puglia, Italy

Town pays to attract residents

The town of Presicce, located in the Puglia region in Italy, announced that it will pay people to move there. Officials want to increase the number of people who live in the historic town after younger residents moved away to find work. The town is offering people about \$30,000 to buy one of its empty homes.



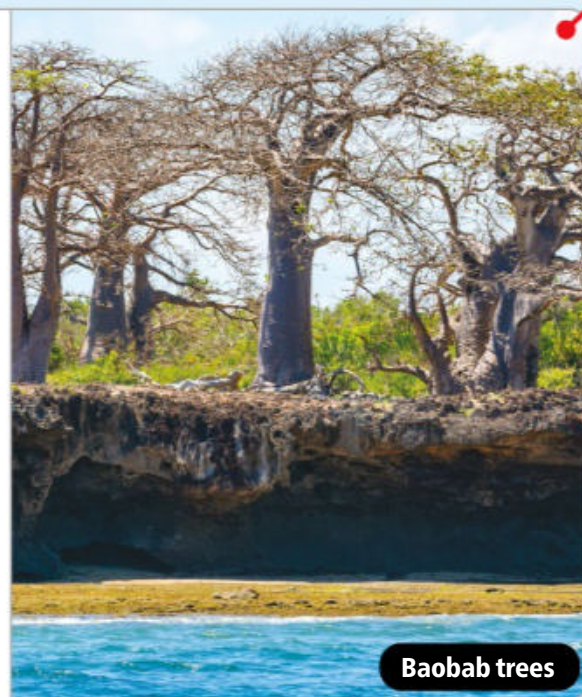
Presicce



Kilifi, Kenya

Trees protected

After a public outcry, the government of Kenya stopped the sale of baobab trees to other nations. The trees were being sold, for a price of \$800 to \$2,400 each, to be planted abroad. But now the community where a tree grows must give permission before it is removed and sold. Baobab trees can live for up to 2,500 years and provide a habitat for many different animals that live in and around them.



Baobab trees

GETTY IMAGES (7); BIBLIOTHÈQUE STANISLAS DE NANCY; ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)



Kenari nuts

Indonesia **Nuts could help rainforests**

A small nut could help save rainforests in Indonesia. Kenari nuts, which are harvested after dropping from kenari trees, have a buttery taste and are used in vegan food and sold as snacks. Increasing demand for the nuts makes kenari trees more valuable and less likely to be cut down for firewood or to make room for planting other crops.



Charging devices from backup power

Ukraine **Air strikes damage energy supplies**

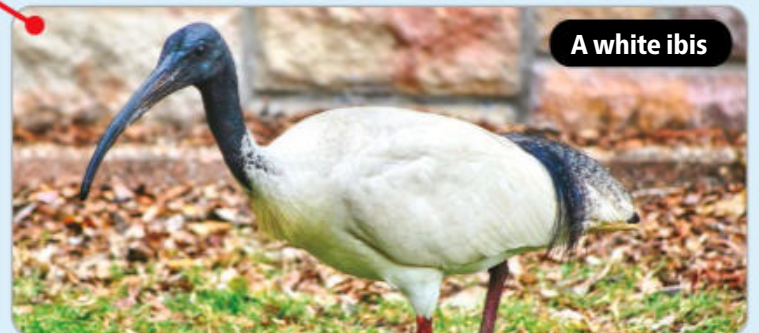
Russian air strikes have hit power plants across Ukraine, leaving millions of people without electricity, water, or heat at a time of year when temperatures in many parts of the country have fallen below zero. The Ukrainian government has told people to leave the worst-hit areas rather than try to get through the winter without heat. Energy supplies to the capital, Kyiv, and other cities are gradually being restored.



One of the protests

Mumbai, India **Women protest to protect forest**

Women from tribal communities in Mumbai, India, are fighting to protect their home, the Aarey forest. A project aims to cut down trees to make way for a new train depot (place where trains park). Previous protests had succeeded in halting the project, but it was announced in July that it would resume. Now community members are protesting again. One told the BBC (the UK's public broadcaster), "How will we save the forest if we don't fight?"



A white ibis

Australia **Unpopular bird helps control pest**

The white ibis, a bird known as the "bin chicken," is disliked for its habit of scavenging food from trash cans and other locations, including people's hands. But it is helping to control a dangerous pest, the cane toad. The toad's skin contains a poison that harms animals that come near it. However, white ibises have been seen washing the poison off the toads in water and then eating them.

Albania **Singer gets citizenship**

On November 27, President Bajram Begaj granted Albanian citizenship to British pop singer Dua Lipa for spreading international awareness of the country through her fame. The singer was born in London to Albanian parents who had moved to the UK. As a child, she was inspired by her father, a singer and guitarist. Lipa, who also volunteers for social causes, told the Associated Press that being granted Albanian citizenship is "an indescribable joy."



Dua Lipa



The big debate

Is cold weather better than hot weather?

Some people prefer frosty days, while others say sunshine means fun time.

What you need to know

- This summer was the third hottest on record in the US. The average temperature was 73.92° F.
- The western US is predicted to have a warmer, wetter winter, while the south and east will face colder temperatures and more snow.
- The coldest states in the US are Alaska, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Maine. The warmest states are Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas.
- One study found that Americans' ideal temperature is 72° F.



From the snowy hills of Vermont to the frozen forests of Alaska to the beaches of California and Hawaii, the US has a wide range of climates. People often pick where they live or travel based on the weather. At this time of year, as temperatures start to drop and we head into winter, cold-weather fans are pulling out their boots and shaking out their sweaters as they prepare for chilly weather fun—and cozy indoor time. Sun lovers, however, are dreaming of long, relaxing days spent hitting the waves, splashing in a pool, or enjoying a picnic in the park. What do you think? Is cold weather better than hot weather?

Yes—cold weather is fun indoors and out

Cold weather can't be beat. Nothing is better than building a snowman, having a snowball fight, or speeding down a hill on a sled. Plus, after the frosty outdoor fun, you get to go indoors for a steaming cup of hot cocoa or a warming bowl of soup. Once you're inside, there are so many things to do. You can snuggle under a blanket, play board games, paint or draw, dive into a good book, and spend more time with family. Some scientists say the cold can even be good for you. They believe chillier weather boosts brain activity and reduces allergy symptoms for people who have them.

No—warm days are simple and special

Warm weather offers longer days and endless activities, from shooting hoops or tossing a Frisbee to surfing, Boogie boarding, swimming, hiking, and camping. People catch fewer colds in summer and get lots of vitamin D (needed for healthy bones) from the sunshine. Sunlight also triggers the release of serotonin, a chemical in the brain that helps people feel calmer and happier. In cold weather, you have to put on sweaters, coats, thick socks, boots, hats, and scarves. But when it's hot out, you can just head out the door in shorts and flip-flops and start having fun right away.

YES Three reasons why cold weather is better than hot weather

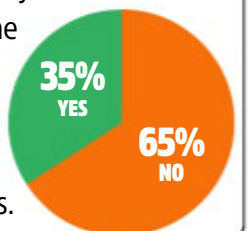
- 1 Cold weather means snowmen and sled rides, then warming up indoors with warm and tasty treats.
- 2 You'll never run out of indoor activities to do on chilly days, and you'll also get to spend more time with family.
- 3 Some scientists have found that cold weather has health benefits.

NO Three reasons why cold weather is not better than hot weather

- 1 There are more warm-weather activities than cold-weather ones, and you can do them just about anywhere.
- 2 People are healthier when it's warm, and the Sun is a vitamin and mood booster.
- 3 You don't have to layer up in warmer weather, so it's easier to just get up and go outside to have fun.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

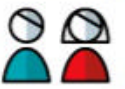
Last week, we asked if holidays are being celebrated too early. Most of you favor extending the festivities: 65% of you said no, and 35% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think cold weather is better than hot weather or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Fighting for nature

Callie Veelenturf believes nature's rights need to be secured worldwide.

Marine biologist Callie Veelenturf learned early on that nature needs help from humans. Now, at age 29, her greatest passion lies in ocean conservation.

Veelenturf grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, and has a degree in marine biology (study of ocean life). Her favorite animals are sea turtles. "They are independent," exploring deep parts of the sea and traveling long distances on their migrations, Veelenturf told *The Week Junior*.

Her research with sea turtles took her around the world, from West Africa to Latin America. But she felt like she could do more to help. "It's not enough anymore to come up with interesting research questions that tap into our deepest curiosities and spend our lives searching for the answers," Veelenturf

explained. That's why, in 2019, she founded the Leatherback Project, an organization that focuses on protecting leatherback turtles worldwide.

This fall, Veelenturf helped pass a new law through Panama's government that recognizes that nature has rights and outlines how to protect them. To persuade officials of the law's importance, she used data from her years of research. She hoped the evidence would act "as a catalyst to spark an empathetic connection with urgent conservation issues," she said.

Veelenturf wants to see more laws like that pass. She has a message for aspiring marine biologists. "Don't feel like you need to wait to graduate with a degree in marine biology to get to work for the ocean," she said. "The ocean needs you now."



Callie Veelenturf

WOW!
Leatherbacks, the largest species of sea turtles, can weigh up to 2,000 pounds.

Art to help others

When Arsh Pal was 8, he set out to raise \$1,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by selling his paintings. Now 12, the Iowa middle schooler has sold about 500 paintings and raised more than \$15,000 for charities. Pal was first inspired to sell his paintings to help people in need while visiting patients at the nursing home where his mother worked. He now also gives art lessons to nursing home patients, who paint cards for St. Jude. "I want to help the community and spread kindness," he told *The Washington Post*.



Arsh Pal



Misty Copeland

Honoring a mentor

Misty Copeland once made history as the first Black principal dancer (highest rank) at the American Ballet Theatre. Her new book, titled *The Wind at My Back*, pays tribute to Raven Wilkinson, the person who inspired her to achieve that goal. Copeland first learned about Wilkinson from a documentary film. Seeing a professional ballerina in the 1950s who was Black, as well as Black dancers who came before Wilkinson, changed Copeland's perspective. "It's been generations and generations of these women who started this race for me," Copeland told *The Washington Post*.

OVERHEARD



"In real life, I've always rooted for underdogs."

Actor and comedian Adam Sandler, age 56, on the common trait among the dozens of film characters he's played during his award-winning career



Animals and the environment



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 15,700 known species of ants.

More ants live on Earth than researchers imagined.

Ants have great strength

Ants may be small, but they are mighty. They have been known to carry up to 20 times their own body weight. This is comparable to a human lifting about 4,000 pounds, which is about the weight of a car. A group of ants working together can lift objects thousands of times their body weight.

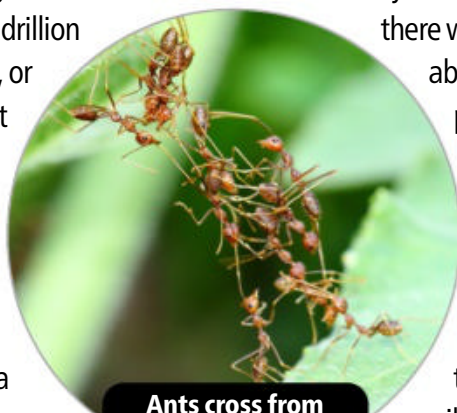


Ants lifting leaves

Many millions of ants on the march

A group of scientists set out to estimate the number of ants on Earth. Their results, one said, were impossible to imagine and higher than all previous estimates. According to their research, there are about 20 quadrillion ants—20,000,000,000,000,000, or 20 with 15 zeros—on Earth. That is about 2.5 million ants for every human on the planet.

To reach this number, the scientists analyzed 489 studies of ant populations. The studies, from all over the world, covered a range of habitats including cities, deserts, and forests. Those counts of ant populations were made by collecting ants in tiny traps like a plastic cup, called pitfall traps, or counting ants on a sample of leaves on the ground.



Ants cross from one leaf to another.

The 20 quadrillion number, the researchers say, is a conservative, or cautiously low, estimate. This is because they did not have much information on how many ants live underground. Furthermore, there were not as many reliable studies about how many ants live in certain parts of the world, like Africa, that are known to have a lot of ants.

In addition, the scientists calculated the total mass of all the world's ants put together and found that it was more than the mass of all the world's wild birds and wild mammals combined. The researchers also found that most ants live in tropical regions and that they are more commonly found in forests and dry areas than in human-made habitats.

Ants play very important roles in the environment. They help to spread seeds, help water and oxygen reach plant roots, and are a source of food for many organisms. Researcher Patrick Schultheiss, who contributed to this new estimate, told *The New York Times*, "I would argue most ecosystems would simply collapse without ants."

Having a better understanding of how many ants there are is useful for monitoring their populations to see if they decline due to harmful changes in the environment. Worldwide, the number of insects, a group that includes ants, is declining dramatically. However, it is not clear if the number of ants is declining as well. In its report, the research team said that counting ants is not difficult work and "it's in humanity's interest to monitor ant populations."



PLACE OF THE WEEK

National Park of American Samoa

At the only US national park below the equator (an imaginary line that circles Earth and divides it into two parts), you can find volcanoes, beaches, coral reefs, and the world's tallest ocean cliffs. Located about 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii in the South Pacific Ocean, the park encompasses sections of three islands of American Samoa: Tutuila, Ta'ū, and Ofu. Samoan culture is more than 3,000 years old, and Samoans have inhabited the islands for thousands of years. (Samoa means "sacred earth.") The park is home to flying foxes, Pacific boas, and collared kingfishers.



A collared kingfisher



WOW!

A dog's sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's.



A dog's nose knows when a person is stressed.

Dogs can sniff out human stress

Dogs can tell the difference between people feeling stressed and feeling calm—by actually smelling the difference on humans, according to a new study.

Scientists at Queen's University in the UK conducted a series of experiments. Four owners volunteered their dogs—Treo, Fingal, Soot, and Winnie—to take part, and 36 humans volunteered too. The people were asked to do a difficult math test. If they became stressed (this was measured by checking their blood pressure), samples of their sweat and breath were taken.

First, the dogs were trained to pick out a stressed person's sample. Then they were given three samples to sniff—one was blank, one was a calm person's smell, and one was a stressed person's smell. Out of 720 trials, dogs picked the stressed smell 675 times.

Researcher Clara Wilson told *The Guardian* newspaper, "It was pretty amazing to see them so confident in telling me, 'Nope, these two things definitely smell different.'" The study could be used to help teach therapy dogs, which are trained to give people emotional support.

Animal of the week

Bar-pouched wreathed hornbill



A male bar-pouched wreathed hornbill named Torük has arrived at the North Florida Wildlife Center (NFWC). The species is rare, and the NFWC hopes that Torük will mate with the center's female wreathed hornbill, Séze.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 50 years in captivity
- **HABITAT:** Forested hills in Southeast Asia
- **SIZE:** About 35 inches tall and 8 pounds
- **DIET:** Mostly fruit; sometimes beetles and crabs
- **FUN FACT:** Adult males have yellow throats while young males and females have blue throats.



Good week / Bad week



Fleay's barred frog

The Australian Fleay's barred frog has developed a natural resistance to a deadly fungus that has wiped out seven other frog species. Scientists are not sure how but hope to study this frog to learn how to help save other frog species.



Black-and-white ruffed lemurs

A tuberculosis outbreak has killed several animals at the Madagascar Zoo, including eight black-and-white ruffed lemurs, a species that is critically endangered. It is thought that human visitors spread the disease to the animals.



"What causes coral bleaching?" Zoe, 11, Hawaii

Thomas Wippenbeck
Zookeeper,
Smithsonian's National Zoo

The main cause of coral bleaching is rising ocean temperatures. Corals have algae living in their tissue that provide them with nutrients and give corals their color. But under increasing temperatures, the algae stop providing nutrients. The coral expels the algae and turns white.



Bleached coral

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC, at nationalzoo.si.edu.



A wonder from the

The Giza pyramids in Egypt are both a marvel and a mystery.

The Giza pyramids are the most famous of all the Egyptian pyramids and perhaps the most famous on Earth. Thousands of years after they were built, they still inspire curiosity and awe.

The major structures

The first of the major pyramids to be built was the Great Pyramid, in honor of the pharaoh (ruler) Khufu. It is the largest of the Giza pyramids, and construction is believed to have finished in about 2560 BCE. (On its eastern side are three small pyramids, called the Queen's Pyramids, for his wives.) The next, and second largest, pyramid to be built was the Pyramid of Khafre, who was Khufu's son, and finished about 2570 BCE. Near Khafre's

pyramid is the Great Sphinx, a statue of a mythical creature that is believed to have been built during Khafre's reign as pharaoh. The last, and smallest, of the great pyramids to be built was the Pyramid of Menkaure, likely finished around 2510 BCE.

STANDING STRONG
The Great Pyramid is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that still remains.



The Giza pyramids were built on the sands of the Sahara Desert.



Khufu



The Great Sphinx

How were the pyramids built?

How the pyramids were erected remains a mystery, but there are several theories. Some archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) believe that the stone blocks used to build the pyramids may have been hauled across sand and up steep ramps made of earth. The Great Pyramid is said to have taken 20 years to complete and is made up of about 2.3 million blocks of stone, some of which weighed up to 15 tons. The stones had outer cases of white limestone, which reflected sunlight and could be seen from miles away. The Sphinx was carved from one large piece of limestone.

Pyramids in other nations

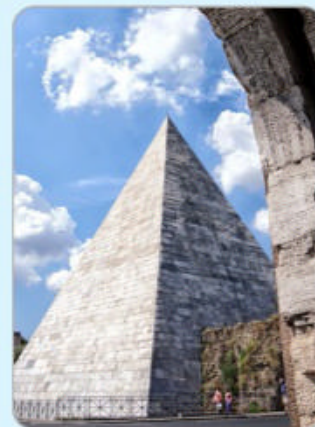
Borobudur Temple Java, Indonesia

The world's largest Buddhist monument, with more than 500 Buddha statues, sits on a hill on the island of Java.



Pyramid of Cestius Rome, Italy

Inspired by the Egyptian pyramids, this pyramid stands about 120 feet high and was likely built between 18 and 12 BCE. It is the tomb of a wealthy Roman general named Gaius Cestius.





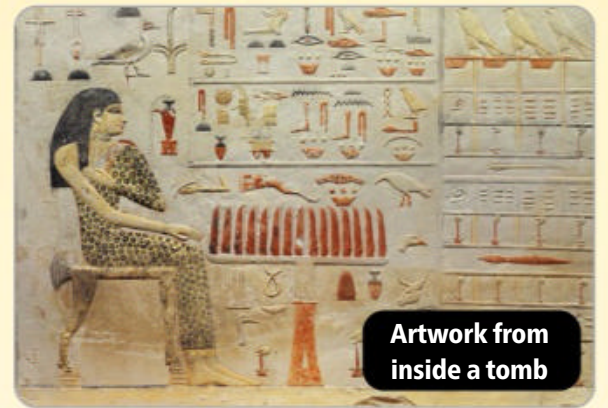
ancient world

A SIGHT TO SEE

More than 14 million people visit the pyramids of Giza each year, making them one of the most popular travel sites in the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

The statue of the Great Sphinx, with the body of a lion and the face of a man, is 241 feet long.



Artwork from inside a tomb

What was inside the pyramids?

The pyramids were used as burial chambers for pharaohs and their queens. The tombs were typically decorated with artwork, which has helped historians understand what daily life in ancient Egypt was like. The Great Pyramid has at least three known chambers. One of them, the king's chamber, is a room made of red granite and contains a royal sarcophagus (stone coffin), although it is now empty. (Khafre's pyramid also has a burial chamber with a sarcophagus, although the mummy inside it appears to have been stolen long ago.) There are pits near the Great Pyramid where boats are buried. Some historians believed that these boats may have been used in funeral processions down the Nile River and that the boats were buried in the belief that they would carry pharaohs to the afterlife.

A rendering of the new Grand Egyptian Museum



The pyramids today

The Giza pyramids have been named a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This offers them protection, which is needed because the pyramids have been worn down over time. (The Great Pyramid is now 451 feet high, for example—about 30 feet shorter than it was at its peak.) The structures continue to captivate the public, drawing millions of visitors to Egypt every year. In 2023, the Egyptian government is expected to officially open the new Grand Egyptian Museum, which is located near the pyramids and houses thousands of artifacts from ancient Egypt.

Temple I Tikal Tikal, Guatemala

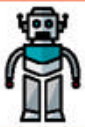
Temple I, also known as the Temple of the Great Jaguar, sits in the ancient Mayan city of Tikal and rises more than 150 feet. The Tikal ruler known as Ah Cacao is buried here.



Pyramids of Meroë Meroë, Sudan

More than 200 pyramids can be found in Meroë, the last capital of the Kushite Kingdom, which ruled over parts of a region called Nubia. Kushite leaders were buried in the pyramids.





DID YOU KNOW?

More than 500 species of a fish called a cichlid live in three lakes in Africa.

Stingrays like this one can learn to do arithmetic.

Fish can add and subtract

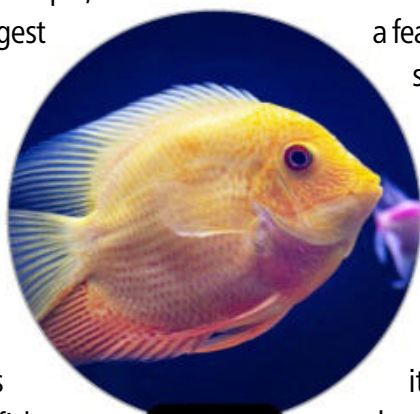
Researchers in Germany have found that fish can do math. In a study, stingrays and cichlids (an African fish) were able to add and subtract—even with no fingers to count on.

Past research has shown that many animals, including fish, can tell the difference between larger and smaller amounts. For example, mosquitofish prefer to join the largest possible social group and will choose a group of four over a group of three. Cichlids and stingrays can see a small collection of objects and tell right away how many there are, just as a person might quickly notice that there are three cookies on a plate. Scientists wondered if fish could also solve math problems.

The team, led by zoologist Vera Schluessel at the University of Bonn, trained the fish to add and subtract. They used a method that had previously been used on bees. First, they showed the animal a card with blue or yellow shapes on it. Blue meant “add one.” Yellow meant “subtract one.” For example, if the fish was shown two blue circles, it should look for a card containing three blue shapes. If it saw two yellow squares, it should look

for one yellow shape. When the fish touched its nose to the correct card, it received a tasty treat.

After the training period, the researchers gave the animals a test. About half of the fish had learned to do the task successfully. They recognized the number of objects, figured out whether to add or subtract, and chose the correct answer. “It’s a feat that requires complex thinking skills,” said Schluessel.



A cichlid

This is unexpected because fish do not have a neocortex, the part of the brain that helps humans and other mammals do this type of task. But “we weren’t surprised that it worked because [fish have] done so many wonderful things before this study,” Schluessel said.

The study subjects seemed to find addition easier than subtraction, with both types of fish achieving a higher percentage of correct answers on the blue cards. The researchers are not sure why that is, or why fish would need to do math, but they hope their work will encourage people to treat fish with respect. “They actually do have personalities... and they also can learn quite complex tasks,” Schluessel said.

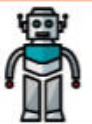
Animals that can count



A vervet monkey

Most animal groups have a number sense—an ability to tell the difference between different quantities of objects or sounds. Scientists have also discovered more complex math skills in several animal species. For example, female lions can count how many roars they hear from an approaching pride (group of lions) before deciding to stay or run.

Some insects count their steps or landmarks as they move. One study found that vervet monkeys could keep track of how many pieces of food were left in a closed box as the pieces were removed one by one—a type of subtraction. Chimpanzees, birds, and bees have learned that the number “1” can mean one object.



Faces of medieval Scottish people reconstructed

Scientists have created detailed digital images of the faces of three people who were buried in a Scottish village called Whithorn between the 1100s and 1300s. The facial reconstructions were made by Christopher Rynn, a scientist and expert on skulls and facial re-creations.

Rynn began with 3D scans of the skulls of three people buried in Whithorn. He applied techniques based in archaeology and forensics (scientific analysis of evidence) to estimate each person's head shape and facial features.

One of the faces Rynn re-created was that of a local religious leader, Bishop Walter, who died in 1235. Walter was known to have had an elaborate burial, which means he was important in his community.

Another re-creation shows a woman who died in her 20s. Her identity is unknown, but based on the location of her coffin near an altar, she is thought to have been someone

of high status. The third image shows a priest with a cleft lip (a split in the upper lip) and cleft palate (split in the roof of the mouth).

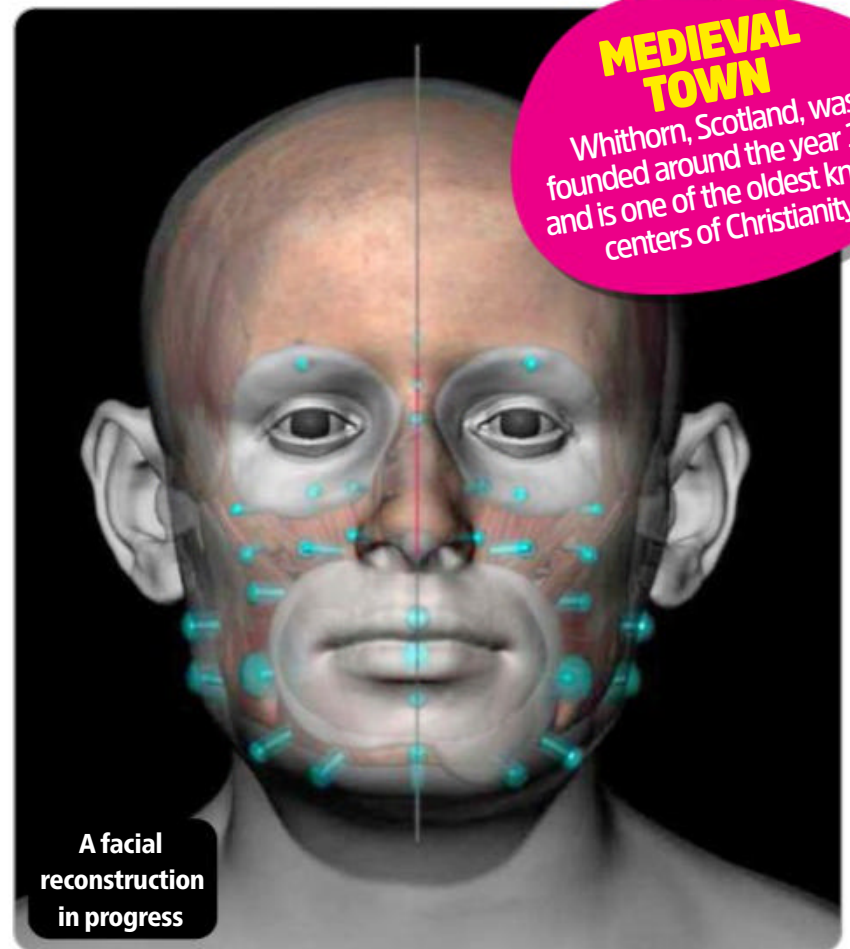
These 3D images will go on display at the visitor center of the Whithorn

Trust, which oversees the

historical site. A Trust official told the BBC news service, "It's always a challenge to imagine what life was really like in medieval times, and these reconstructions are a brilliant way to engage with who these people from our past really were."



The face of the woman in her 20s



A facial reconstruction in progress

MEDIEVAL TOWN

Whithorn, Scotland, was founded around the year 397 and is one of the oldest known centers of Christianity.



Children learn from one another.

Hearing accents can help language skills

Scientists in Germany found that exposure to different accents helps children learn new words.

The study included 88 children ages 7 to 11. They all spoke German. Some of the kids were bilingual (able to speak two languages), and some had grown up hearing many different accents in their daily lives.

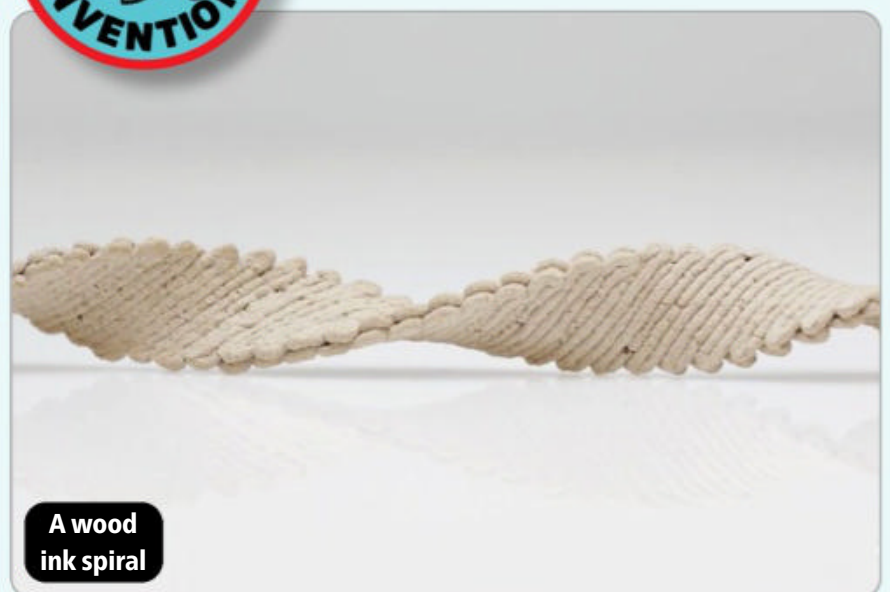
The children played a computer game based on the card game Spot It! They had to quickly spot and name objects. The game included

six words most kids their age don't know. As they played, the kids heard these words spoken by virtual players—some with standard German accents and others with Swiss or Hebrew accents.

Kids who had heard more accents in their daily lives learned the new words more easily. Past studies had shown that bilingual children had better language learning skills. But in this case, the bilingual kids did not find it easier to learn the new words.



A type of wood printed in 3D



A wood ink spiral

Researchers in Israel used 3D printing to make wooden objects that start out flat and damp and rise into shapes as they dry. They created ink from wood shavings and printed it in layers and rows of strips.

Knowing that wood changes in predictable ways as it loses

moisture, the scientists were able to control the final shape of the object by changing the orientation of the strips. For example, a flat rectangle with strips going in different directions dried in a 3D spiral shape. The method could be used to make furniture one day.



Photos of the week



Golden glow

The setting sun lights up the sky in Myanmar, by Aung Chan Thar.



Into the storm

A wave overtakes a lighthouse in the UK, by Christopher Ison.



AUNG CHAN THAR; LUO XING; KRZYSZTOF TOLLAS; CHRISTOPHER ISON; SARA JAZBAR; ROSSI FANG



Spectacular sight

Lightning strikes over the city of Chongqing, China, by Luo Xing.



Morning glory

The sun rises over a frozen river in Poland, by Krzysztof Tollas.



Highway in the sky

Thick fog covers a bridge in Slovenia, by Sara Jazbar.



Rays of light

Frost starts to melt on a mountain in Taiwan, by Rossi Fang.



Michigan and Ohio State players

FUN FACT

The University of Michigan has the most wins of any college football team in history.

World Cup update



The US men's soccer team has advanced to the knockout round of the World Cup. On November 29, they beat Iran, 1–0, in their final group stage match. It was a must-win for the US after their hard-fought battle against England four days earlier ended in a 0–0 tie.

Rivals face off in college football

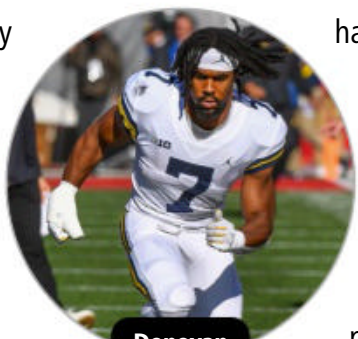
For college football fans, one of the most exciting times of the year is rivalry week, which takes place during the week of Thanksgiving. Over the course of several days, many teams across the country play teams that are their big rivals.

One of the most anticipated games this year featured the University of Michigan playing at Ohio State University on November 26. More than 106,000 people filled Ohio Stadium for the annual showdown, which is nicknamed "The Game." Michigan hosted the matchup last year and won for the first time in nine years. Beating Ohio State on the road is something they hadn't done since 2000, but Michigan pulled it off

this year with a 45–23 victory. With 17 million TV viewers, it was the most-watched regular season college football game of 2022.

Heading into the big day, both teams had 11–0 records. Ohio State was the number two team in Division 1 college football, and Michigan was number three, according to the Associated Press poll.

Ohio State got off to a hot start, scoring a touchdown on their first possession. After a field goal from each team, Ohio State led 10–3 at the end of the first quarter. The teams traded scoring possessions throughout the second quarter, with Ohio State clinging to a 20–17 lead at halftime.



Donovan Edwards

When the game resumed, Michigan was unstoppable. They scored four touchdowns during the second half, while Ohio State delivered only a three-point field goal. Two key Michigan players in the win were quarterback J.J. McCarthy, who threw for 263 yards and three touchdowns, and running back Donovan Edwards, who ran for 216 yards and two touchdowns.

Michigan is now number two in the country, and Ohio State is number five. On December 3, Michigan will play Purdue University for the Big 10 conference championship, and they will likely secure a spot in the College Football Playoff (CFP). In the CFP, the four best teams in the country play for the national championship. Ohio State could still qualify, but their chances will depend on the outcome of other top teams' upcoming games.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

TRIATHLON

At the World Triathlon Championships Finals, which ended on November 26, US racer Morgan Pearson took silver and became the first American man to medal at the event since 1991. Fellow Americans Hailey Danz and Grace Norman won women's paratriathlon events. The US also won silver and bronze in the first-ever paratriathlon mixed relay, an event for athletes with different types of disabilities.



Boston Bruins players

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Third-ranked University of Connecticut beat ninth-ranked University of Iowa, 86–79, on November 27 to win the Phil Knight Legacy women's basketball tournament. In the men's tournament, 24th-ranked Purdue University beat eighth-ranked Duke University, 75–56.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

On November 25, the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes, 3–2, in overtime. It was their 12th straight win at home, which set a new NHL record.



DID YOU KNOW?

New York has the most ski resorts of any state in the US.



US skier
Mikaela Shiffrin

Top skiers compete in Vermont

On November 26 and November 27, many of the world's top female skiers competed at the 2022 Heroic Killington Cup in Killington, Vermont. It is the only women's World Cup event in the US this season. There were two races: the slalom (a downhill race through a course) and the giant slalom (which runs over a longer course).

US skier Mikaela Shiffrin was the defending slalom champion at Killington and had won the event there five times. This season, she had already won the first two alpine World Cup events, a feat no other woman had accomplished in 29 years. During her career, Shiffrin has won 76 World Cups. Only two women have earned more.

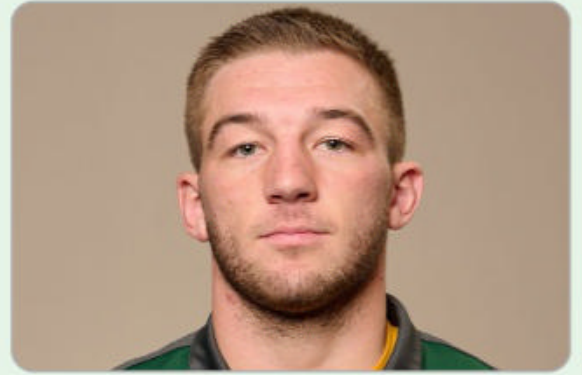
The first event at Killington was the giant slalom. In her first race of the season, reigning world champion Lara Gut-Behrami, who is

from Switzerland, edged out Italian skier Marta Bassino by .07 seconds to claim her 35th World Cup victory. Sara Hector of Sweden placed third. Shiffrin finished in 13th place and explained that she had not practiced the giant slalom much during the pre-season.

The following day was the slalom race. Shiffrin had the best time after the first run, but she was unable to hold onto the lead after her second run. She placed fifth, .59 seconds behind Wendy Holdener of Switzerland and Anna Swenn Larson of Sweden, who ended up in an unusual tie for first. It was the first-ever World Cup titles for both skiers. Katharina Truppe of Austria came in third.

Even though Shiffrin did not win the competition, she remains in first place in the World Cup standings.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Jared Franek

AGE: 22 SPORT: WRESTLING

TEAM: NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Family bond I started wrestling when I was in kindergarten. My dad wrestled in high school, so he introduced me and my older brother to it. I didn't like it much at first. I was competitive and hated the thought of losing. Being able to work out with my brother and get better so I didn't lose matches was big. After a few years, I started to love it and have more success.

Life lessons Wrestling teaches you how to move forward and push through things. I'm proud of the person it has shaped me into. I received a lot of wrestling awards growing up, and none of them changed me as a person. I've always had good successes but also big failures on big stages. They've helped drive me and prepare me for battles in life.

Winning attitude Losses happen.

Everybody loses. If you get stuck on a loss for too long, it doesn't really benefit you. I'll go back, see what I could have done differently and what I did wrong, learn from it, and move on.

Looking ahead I've been captain of the team for two years. My personal goal is to be a better leader. My other goals are to win every match moving forward, win the Big 12 conference—I've been runner-up twice—and be on the top of the podium at the national tournament.

His advice Pick what you love and stick to it, whether it's playing a few sports or just one. Work hard and don't be so focused on wins and losses. Just focus on getting better at your sport, being a better person, and doing all the little things right.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Mavis Danso**

Team: **DC Soccer Club blue girls U10**

"Coach Mavis is super awesome! She pushes us to do our best but doesn't get angry if we do something wrong. She makes sure that everyone gets the same amount of playing time, while also giving advice from the sidelines and telling us that we are doing great! She tells us what to do better and what we are doing well. She is always proud of us even when we lose. This former World Cup player is the best coach anyone could ask for!" Lucy, 9, Washington, DC



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment

WOW!

Last year, a portrait by Sandro Botticelli sold at auction for \$92.2 million.



From left: art by Jacopo del Sellaio, Sandro Botticelli, and an ancient Roman



Italian art shown in US museum

An exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art features famous works by Sandro Botticelli and others.

Artwork by one of the world's most famous Italian painters is now on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (known as Mia). *Botticelli and Renaissance Florence: Masterworks from the Uffizi* features paintings, drawings, and sculptures by Sandro Botticelli and other artists who worked in Florence, Italy, at the same time he did.

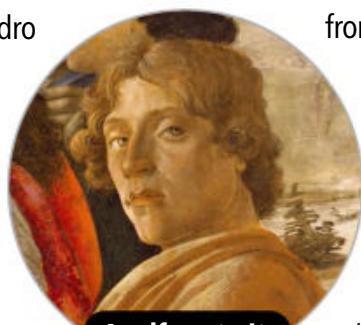
Botticelli lived from 1445–1510. This period was during the Renaissance (1300s–1600s), a time of great learning and art in Europe. Botticelli is considered one of

the Old Masters, a group of European artists from the 1300s to 1800. Much of the art created at that time was religious, but some of Botticelli's most famous works are scenes from mythology.

For the exhibition, Mia borrowed pieces from the Uffizi Galleries, a major museum in Florence. "Many of the drawings, all of the marbles, and many of the paintings have never been shown in the US before," Rachel McGarry, a Mia curator (person who chooses art), told *The Week Junior*. Exposure to light can be damaging to old drawings, so the Uffizi allows them to

be displayed for only three months every five years. After that, they go into dark storage.

The exhibition includes ancient Greek and Roman sculptures that were excavated and displayed during the Renaissance and inspired Botticelli and his fellow artists. Visitors can easily see how a marble centaur from around 150 CE resembles the one in Botticelli's painting *Pallas and the Centaur* (made around 1482). "You gain a new appreciation of how important the study of antiquity was," McGarry said. Museum visitors have been in awe of the beautiful art, she added. "They keep saying, 'I can't believe they could have made this 500 or 2,000 years ago.'"



A self-portrait of Botticelli

3 facts about Botticelli

Who he was

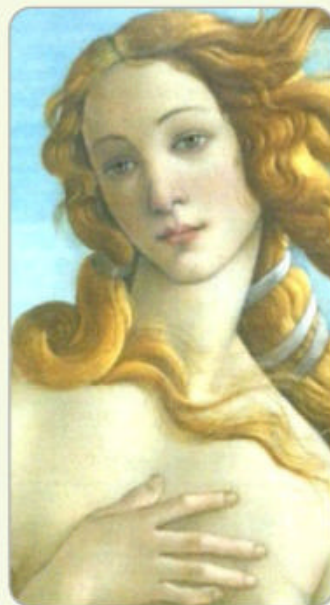
Sandro Botticelli's real name was Alessandro Filipepi. His nickname, Botticello, means "little barrel." He began studying art at about age 14 and lived most of his life in Florence.



Florence, Italy

Famous work

One of the artist's best-known paintings is *The Birth of Venus* (right), from about 1485. Depicting the goddess of love and beauty arriving on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, it is part of the Uffizi Galleries collection.



Kids in art

During the Renaissance, it became more common for art to feature children and adolescents. Botticelli's *Portrait of a Young Man* (right) depicts a boy who most likely worked as a government page or a musician.





THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Mickey: The Story of a Mouse (Disney+)

This documentary traces how Mickey Mouse became one of the most recognizable characters of all time. Through footage from the past and present, it highlights creator Walt Disney, the mouse's debut in a 1928 animated short, his significance in pop culture, and more.

Wimpy Kid film sequel released

The second book in Jeff Kinney's popular *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series has been made into a new animated film. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* is now streaming on Disney+.

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* stories are typically told from the perspective of Greg Heffley, a middle schooler who keeps an illustrated journal about his life. *Rodrick Rules* is about his complicated relationship with his older brother, a lazy, angst-filled teen. Rodrick often picks on Greg or ignores him in favor of his rock band, but the pair actually care about each other.

Kinney co-wrote and produced the *Rodrick Rules* film. Although it's slightly different from

the book, he told *The Week Junior* he tried to pack in as many familiar details as possible. "Each scene is a lot of fun and it's got a lot of heart," he said. "And there are big laughs!"

Years ago, the first two *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books were made into live-action films, but Kinney said animating the stories makes them feel like "they sprung from the pages of Greg's journal." Plus, he said, "There are things animation can do that aren't possible in live action." Kinney told *The Week Junior* he is looking forward to the *Rodrick* release. "It's so exciting to think that millions of kids will get to enjoy what we've been working on!"



MOVIE NIGHT

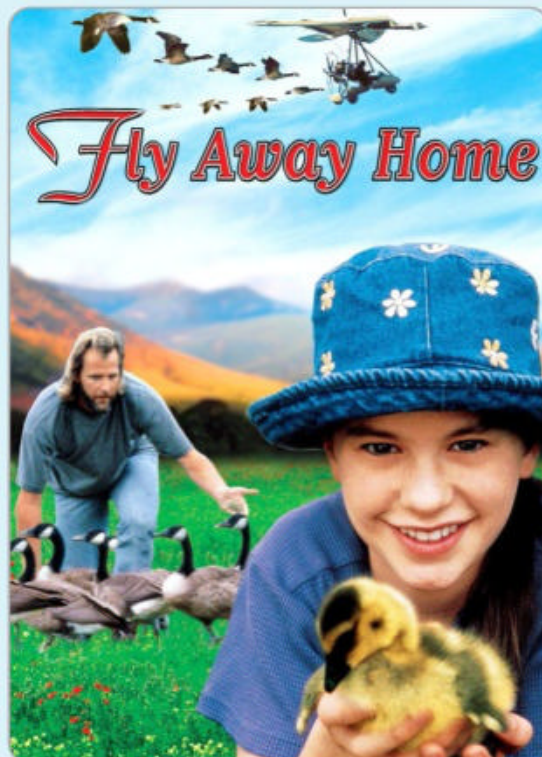
If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Fly Away Home (1996)

Available to rent

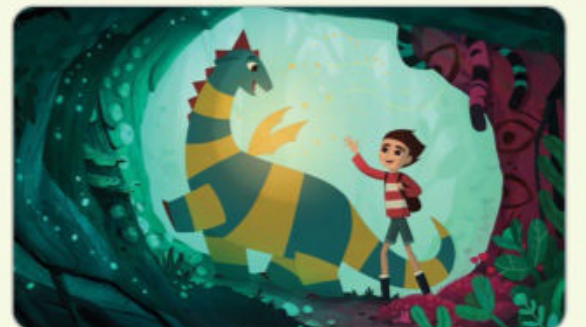
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This film is loosely based on a true story. When the mother of a young girl named Amy dies in a car accident, Amy moves from New Zealand to a farm in Canada to live with her father, Tom, whom she barely knows. One morning, Amy comes across some goose eggs that are not being protected by their mother. She takes them home and cares for them, and when the eggs hatch, the goslings (baby geese) look to Amy as a mother figure. The problem is, she can't teach them how to fly south for the winter. Local authorities, meanwhile, see the geese as a hazard and want to clip their wings. Tom has been developing a small flying machine and decides to use it to help the geese. Can he and Amy save the flock and strengthen their own relationship?



Play-Doh Squished (Amazon Freevee)

Actress Sarah Hyland (*Modern Family*) hosts this new series that features teams of adults and kids competing in challenges involving Play-Doh clay. They will need to be fast and creative as they compete for a prize. Guest appearances by famous athletes and actors add to the fun.

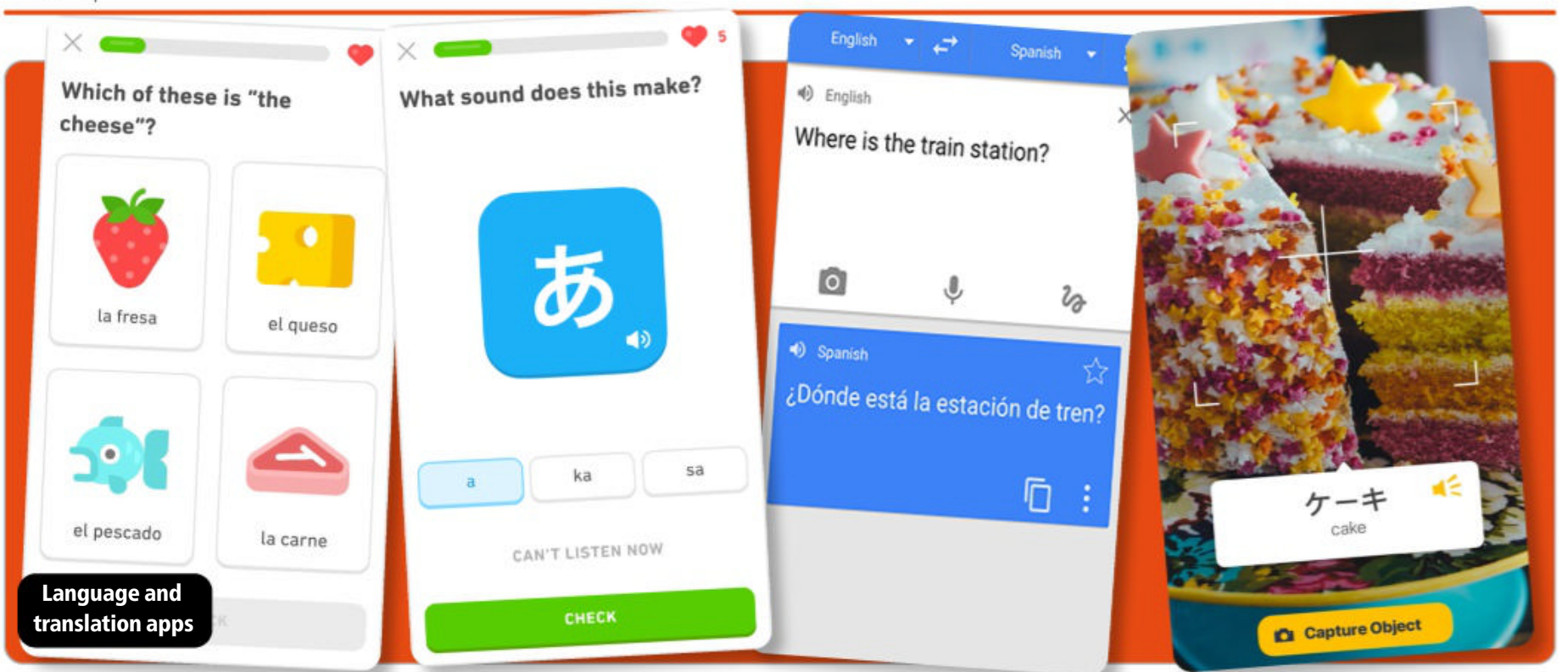


My Father's Dragon (Netflix)

An award-winning children's book of the same name inspired this film, which was made by the animation artists behind the films *The Secret of Kells* and *Wolfwalkers*. The story follows a boy's journey to a mysterious island where he meets a young dragon and other special creatures.



On screen



Apps to learn another language

Whether you're heading to another country or just want to expand your vocabulary for school or fun, a phone or tablet can help. There are many apps that can teach you new languages or provide quick translations.

Two apps for easy learning are **Duolingo** and **Memrise**.

Duolingo offers lessons in 41 languages, including French, Spanish, Arabic, Greek, and Japanese. You can even learn a fictional language (one used in books or films), such as Klingon from the *Star Trek* series. It has quizzes and games to test your skills and can track your progress, too.

Memrise also teaches you new words and phrases in foreign languages. The app uses video clips of people from different countries, and hearing them speak helps with practice. Other

language learning apps include **Babbel** and **Mondly**, which offer mini lessons. All of those apps are free to start, but they also have "premium" versions in which you pay a monthly subscription fee for extra features and lessons. (Always check with an adult before making a purchase or sharing your email address.)

If you visit a foreign country—or even just a neighborhood where another language is spoken—and can't understand a menu, a sign, or instructions, you can get quick and easy help from the **Google Translate** app. Take a photo of the words and click for an instant translation. You can also type in a word and have it translated into more than 100 languages. But be careful: The best translation is not always the word that first appears.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are more than 7,100 languages spoken in the world today.



GAME OF THE WEEK

NAILED IT! BAKING BASH

Netflix Games

Nailed It!—the competition series where amateur bakers do their best to copy professional creations—inspired this new game. In your virtual kitchen, you'll follow steps and use taps and swipes to try to re-create a cake design, such as an Eiffel Tower. You can play solo or join a game with friends.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK



MUSIC BLOCKS

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube

The goal of this Colorado Public Radio series is to help listeners appreciate music and learn how sounds are put together. Each five-minute episode explores the ways songwriters and composers use musical elements to convey emotions and tell stories about love, home, work, and more.



CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

ED PEOPLE

youtube.com/c/EdPeople

Ed is a man from Belgium who asks strangers, "Can you teach me your favorite dance move?" Over 500 days, he met 1,500 people and learned 1,200 ways to shake it. His channel is filled with the results of his efforts—and it's a great way to learn a bit about cultures from around the world.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Plotting the Stars 1: Moongarden

By Michelle A. Barry

(Pixel+Ink)

The year is 2448. People no longer live on Earth because the plants poisoned the air. Myra attends a school on the Moon. Her parents have magical powers related to math, but Myra's powers aren't developing. One day, she stumbles onto an abandoned classroom at school. The robot there leads Myra to a secret slide that goes to a garden. The garden is filled with plants that are feared by the world. Myra worries she may become sick from being near the plants, but they don't harm her. She eventually learns those plants may hold the key to saving the galaxy from a food shortage. Can she convince the world? This first book in a new series contains many plot twists and intriguing characters.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Michelle A. Barry

We spoke to the author of *Moongarden*.

Why are gardens special?

It's the magic of nature. I love the before and after with gardening, of seeing what the space can transform into.

Are your characters based on anyone you know?

My characters are usually a combination of traits that remind me of people I know and from my imagination.

Did you read science fiction growing up?

Yes, I loved the original *Star Wars* trilogy. I've always

been fascinated with outer space. I wanted to be an astronaut when I was young.

Any advice for kids?

We all have things that make us unique, and sometimes, especially when we're young, they can make you stand out when you might rather fit in. But these things end up being the magic that makes you who you are.

Favorite flower?

Lily of the valley. It reminds me of my grandmother.



4 adventure stories that feature dragons

The setting and plot in each of these novels are unique and entertaining.



New Dragon City

By Mari Mancusi

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Three years after dragons attacked New York City, Noah and his dad are struggling to survive underground. Noah and a young dragon team up to try to make peace between humans and dragons. This book may remind you of *How to Train Your Dragon*. Ages 8–12



The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart

By Stephanie Burgis

(Bloomsbury Publishing)

A young dragon sneaks out of her family's cave and gets turned into a 12-year-old girl after she drinks a cup of hot chocolate that contains a spell. She has many adventures in the human world, including getting a job at a chocolate shop. The story is full of interesting characters. Ages 8–12



Dragon Mountain

By Katie and Kevin Tsang

(Union Square Kids)

Billy and his friends are at summer camp in China when they find out there are warrior dragons hidden in the mountain behind the camp. The dragons need the kids to help them defeat the Dragon of Death, which threatens the human and dragon worlds. This fantasy is the first of five in a series. Ages 8–12



The Language of Spells

By Garret Weyr, illustrated by Katie Harnett

(Chronicle Books)

In the early 1800s, Grisha, a dragon, was turned into a teapot. When he's finally freed, he travels to Austria to meet other dragons. But when he gets there, the dragons are missing. He makes friends with an 11-year-old girl who offers to help him find out what happened to the dragons. Ages 10–14

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Plotting the Stars 1: Moongarden*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with *Moongarden* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on December 23. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

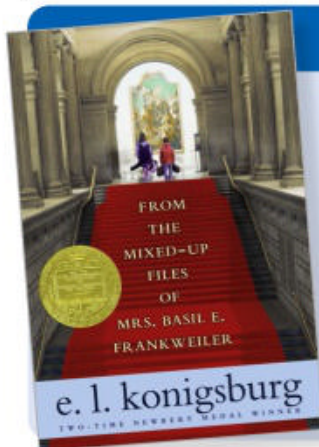
READER RECOMMENDS

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

By E. L. Konigsburg

"Claudia and her brother Jamie run away from home. When they get to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, they think the museum would be a perfect place to stay. They can take baths in the fountain. When they discover a statue that looks like their relative, they try to figure out the mystery of the artist!" Carlisle, 8, Louisiana

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...



LOTS OF LIGHTS

An estimated 150 million sets of holiday lights are sold in the US every year.

Decorate for the holidays

Adding special touches to your home can help you get into the spirit of the season.

Now that it's December, you and your family may want to decorate your home for the holidays or for winter. You may have decorating traditions that you maintain each year, but it can also be fun to add extra touches that will make your home feel festive. As the days get colder, you might be spending more time indoors, which is another reason to add some decorations. Here are some ways to get started.

Take inventory

It's always a good idea to start with decorations you already have, instead of buying new ones. Even if a parent has already put up some holiday items, there might be leftover decorations you could put in your bedroom. You could also ask if there are any extra supplies from other holidays or events, such as a birthday party, that you could use.

Be creative

It's fun to come up with new ways to use decorations. For example, if you discover an extra strand of lights, you could drape them over a bed frame or the doorway to your living room. A collection of dreidels could be put in a bowl at your entryway table, or you could decorate a bookshelf with them. You could use festive wrapping paper to cover your front door or the door to your room.

Start crafting

If you have glitter, stickers, or puffy paints, ask an adult if you can use them to decorate plain tree ornaments. Add the year to the ornament so you'll always remember when you made it. Snowflakes cut out from white or blue paper are easy to make and look great as decorations. To make them, fold white paper into quarters and then cut out several shapes. Unfold the paper to reveal the snowflake. With an adult's help, hang the snowflakes from a ceiling with clear string. Or you could tape snowflakes to your windows to create a snowy setting.

Finally, you could cut out a large piece of a cardboard box, paint it, and write a festive message on it, such as "Light up the night" or "Let it snow." Display it like artwork on a shelf.



Create your own snow.

Bring toys into the decorations

If you have Lego bricks on hand, you could use them to create a tiny menorah or miniature Christmas tree to display on your bedside table. If you have a collection of animal or superhero figures, you could use construction paper to create winter hats to put on them and display them on your desk or shelves. If you have a playhouse or a toy tent set up in your room or playroom, add some decorations, like a string of lights or paper snowflakes.

4 decorating ideas from other nations

Find out how people around the world show their holiday spirit.

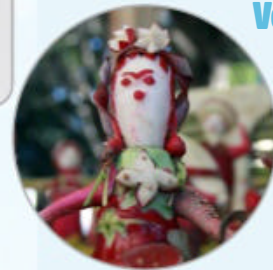
Boats with lights

In Greece, it's traditional at Christmas to see boats decked out with lights and ornaments as a symbol of new life and to thank sailors who devoted their life to the sea.



Vegetable carvings

At farmers markets in Oaxaca, Mexico, radishes carved



into images of holiday scenes and local wildlife are sold. People buy them to display in their homes.

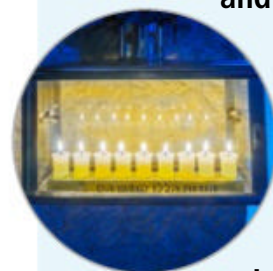
Baskets of treats

Children in Norway make heart-shaped baskets from paper. Known as *julekurver* baskets, they are hung in homes or on Christmas trees in hopes they'll be filled with nuts and candy.



Glowing candles

During the Hanukkah holiday in Israel, especially on the eighth and final night, many people place menorahs in specially designed glass boxes outside their home or business.





MAKE A HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING PLAN

If you are going to give holiday gifts, now is a good time to start planning out the presents. Here's how.

- 1. Talk to others.** If you have siblings or cousins you'd like to exchange gifts with, ask an adult if you can start a gifting tradition. You could draw names out of a hat so everyone gives and gets one gift. Or maybe your friends want to make presents for one another.
- 2. Try a special exchange.** Ask an adult to help you look online for the rules for a gift exchange, such as a Yankee Swap. In this exchange, each person brings a gift that anyone would enjoy to a gathering, and they draw numbers to start trading gifts.
- 3. Make a list.** If you're planning to give individual gifts, make a list of everyone you'll be gifting to and brainstorm ideas. Ask an adult to help you budget and plan when to buy the presents. Your gift could also be homemade, such as baked goods or a craft. A handmade card is always special to receive as well.



DID YOU KNOW?

California is known as the broccoli capital of the US because it produces about 90% of the country's broccoli.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Cook broccoli cheddar soup

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 3 cups chopped broccoli florets (about 1 head of broccoli)
- 1 cup shredded carrots (about 2 medium carrots)
- 2 cups half-and-half milk
- Pinch of nutmeg, optional
- 10 ounces shredded sharp cheddar cheese, plus more for garnish
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Baguette slices, toasted, for serving

Instructions

- 1.** Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until it starts to soften, about 5 minutes.
- 2.** Stir in the flour until incorporated with the butter and golden brown, about 1 minute. Slowly pour in the vegetable stock, stirring constantly, until the liquid begins to boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and add the broccoli and carrots. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, about 12 minutes.
- 3.** Stir in the half-and-half and nutmeg and bring to a slight simmer. Add the cheese and stir until melted. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 4.** Serve with sliced baguette for dipping and extra cheese sprinkled on top. This recipe makes about 6 servings.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

GREEN YOUR LAUNDRY ROUTINE

The average family does about 300 loads of laundry a year, which uses electricity and about 6,000 gallons of water. One way to save resources to help the environment is to do less laundry. For instance, if an article of clothing doesn't have any stains or odors on it, ask a parent if you can wear it again before washing it. This is especially true if you wore something for only a few hours before changing. Many jean manufacturers even suggest that the pants not be washed after every wear to preserve the material. When it's time to dry your laundry, you can also save on electricity by hanging some clothes on a drying rack instead of using the dryer.

Try to wash less often.



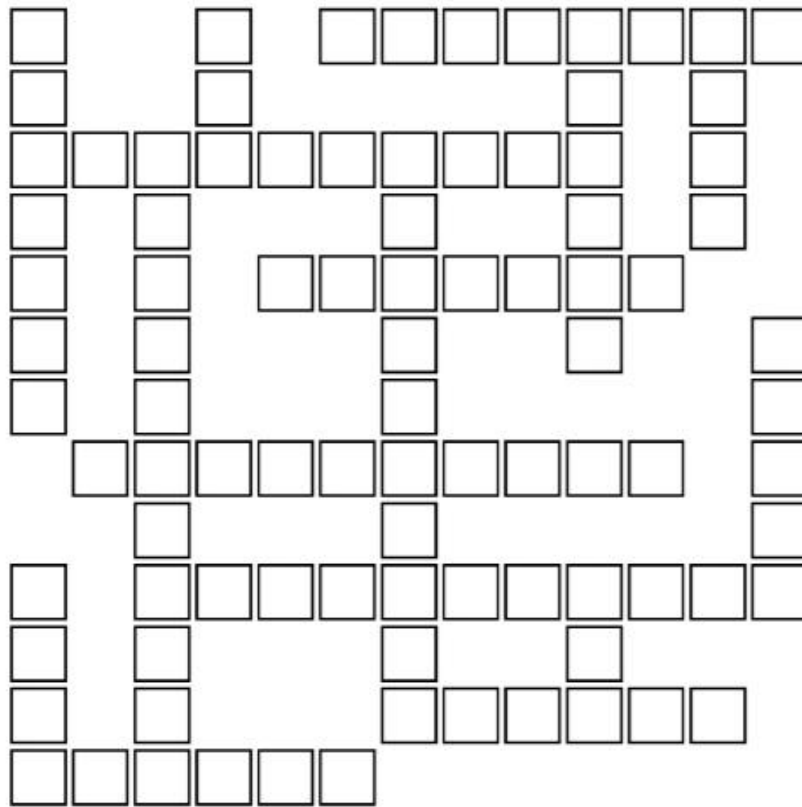


Puzzles

Crisscross

Each of these things about the environment fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

- 3 letters**
AIR
SEA
- 4 letters**
LIFE
SOIL
- 5 letters**
TRASH
- 6 letters**
ENERGY
FOREST
LITTER
- 7 letters**
COMPOST
RECYCLE
- 8 letters**
LANDFILL
- 10 letters**
ATMOSPHERE
CLEAN WATER
SOLAR POWER
- 11 letters**
ENVIRONMENT
MOTHER EARTH



Take five

Five 5-letter things in a kitchen are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

K	P	N	N	E
T	A	I	O	S
A	H	D	F	A
L	N	R	G	E
C	O	I	L	N

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	6			5	
3					4
1			2		
		3			1
2					5
	1			6	

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters M-A-T. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Sandwich addition often paired with lettuce

M A T

2. Comfy part of a bed

M A T

3. Activists like Greta Thunberg are concerned about changes in this

M A T

4. Word said at the end of a chess match

M A T

5. Area of study that includes arithmetic and algebra

M A T M A T

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a camel near the pyramids at Giza appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





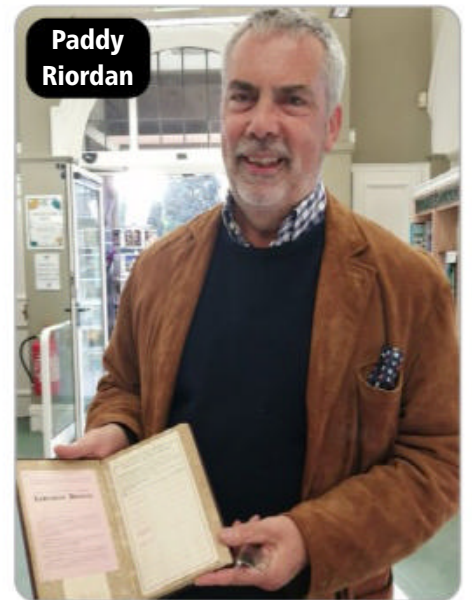
A doggie diner

Gourmet dinners for dogs

In San Francisco, California, man's best friend can now eat man's best food. A new restaurant, called Dogue, offers multi-course meals for dogs. For \$75, pampered pups can enjoy dishes like filet mignon with quail egg and chicken skin waffles. Meanwhile, their owners get a baked good and a beverage. "It's rare when as a chef, I walk into the dining room. . . and every single guest has a smile on their face," said chef and founder Rahmi Massarweh. "There's something very unique and satisfying about that."

A very long-lost book

The Earlsdon Carnegie Community Library in England was surprised to receive the book of a lifetime—a lifetime of late fees, that is. Paddy Riordan had found a copy of *Red Deer* by Richard Jefferies, checked out by Riordan's grandfather in 1938. The dutiful grandson went to the library to return the overdue book and donate \$21.14, the amount that his grandfather would have owed in late fees after 84 years.



Paddy Riordan



The new purse

Fashion-flavored bags

The hottest new handbags seem like they belong on a different type of shelf. Made by the Balenciaga fashion brand and the Lay's chip company, these new purses look like a bag of potato chips. They are made from specially treated leather with a glossy finish and sell for \$1,500. "Can y'all actually fill it to the top with chips?" asked one social media commenter.

Real OR fake?



Is this a puzzle solver's dream?

Jumbo jigsaw hits shelves

A newly released puzzle made up of 60,000 pieces is believed to be the world's largest jigsaw puzzle. Titled "What a Wonderful World," it depicts paintings of the continents and several world landmarks—such as the UK's Big Ben and India's Taj Mahal—on a giant canvas. At 8 feet tall and 29 feet wide, it poses an extra challenge for solvers: finding a room big enough to hold all its pieces. Is this story real, or does something not seem to fit?*



These chefs are on a roll!

Cooking duo achieves fish feats

Two TikTok-famous chefs met in Boston, Massachusetts, and set out to break a record. Two thousand pounds of rice, 500 pounds each of salmon and cucumber, and millions of sesame seeds later, Nick DiGiovanni and Lynn Davis had achieved the Guinness World Records title for the world's largest sushi roll at 7 feet, 1 inch. They also bagged a speed record for filleting (removing the bones from) a 10-pound fish in just over a minute. After the pair wrapped it all up, they donated the gigantic sushi roll to a local homeless shelter.

*Real! The Costco company has introduced the new puzzle, which is actually a set of 60 individual 1,000-piece puzzles that can be connected together for what it calls "the ultimate jigsaw puzzle challenge."



Your turn

Editor's note

December is a very busy month for many people, including the members of the US Congress. They are facing intense pressure over the next month to discuss and pass legislation on a variety of important issues (p4). I wish them the best in their deliberations. With the winter holidays approaching, this is also a busy time of excitement and preparation for families across the country. I hope you enjoy our ideas for decorating your home (p24) and making a gift-giving plan (p25). It's a hectic time of year for us at *The Week Junior*, too, as we get ready to create our final issues of 2022. One of our favorite traditions is asking our readers which front cover from the past year was their favorite. You will see this question on the back cover of Issues 141/142, and I can hardly wait to hear what you have to say!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



YOUR PHOTOS: THANKSGIVING FUN



"I had fun making caramel apple cider with my mom. It tasted like apple pie in a mug!"
Sloane, 10, Texas

"We loved making these decorations with friends. It was so much fun!" Mira, 8, and Saanvi, 11, Louisiana



"I made the fruit turkey decorations on Thanksgiving."
Oliver, 13, Florida



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Heifer International

This organization aims to end poverty around the world. It focuses on creating sustainable solutions farmers can use to strengthen their businesses and earn higher wages. It also provides education programs and advocates for communities to have access to power and water. Since 1944, Heifer International has helped more than 39 million farmers. Find out more at heifer.org.



Celebrating our democracy

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about America's democratic process. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.

first name: Eloise Leibowitz Age: 9½ State: New York

What do you like most about democracy and why?

I like that we have the choice on who we want to represent our nation, city, and district. When we choose a candidate we have to think what causes will they step up for? How? Do I agree with this person?

If you could describe democracy in three words, which words would you choose?

Freedom
Rights
Community

What is your hope for democracy in the US?

I hope we can continue on with the democracy. I also hope we can be good sports when we win or lose. We should be kind, respectful, and honest.

Draw a picture of what democracy looks like to you.

WE ALL have a voice

JOKE OF THE WEEK

How is King Arthur's horse like a bad dream?

They're both knight mares.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



In Issue 135, we published instructions for a turkey craft and a recipe for caramel apple cider. We received so many amazing photos and comments from readers who told us how much they enjoyed making them! Thank you to everyone who wrote to us. Here is a selection of submissions!



"I'm drinking my morning cider." **Charlie, 11, New York**

"I love *The Week Junior*. I added my own twist to the fruit decorations from the Thanksgiving issue, and it was SO fun! Thank you!" **Nora, 11, Maine**



"It was so fun making the turkey decorations! I like to read the How To and Around the World sections." **Michaela, 8, North Carolina**

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjunior on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What are you most grateful for this holiday season and why?

"My friends and family. They are always here for me."

"My dog. He has helped me through some hard times."

"I'm most grateful for being healthy this year."

"My friend coming to town since she moved away."

In the big debate, we asked: Are holidays being celebrated too early?

"Yes. We aren't getting enough time to celebrate other holidays that come before."

"No. It makes some people happy. We shouldn't judge."

"I feel like anyone can start early as long as you have the Christmas spirit!"

"Thanksgiving is like preparing us for Christmas, so not really."

Now tell us: What will you do to get into the holiday spirit this year?



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Rogers**

School: **Baker Demonstration School**

"Mrs. Rogers, my science teacher, is literally the best teacher I have ever had. She is creative and fun and always has the best activities planned. For example, at the beginning of the year, we do this experiment called 'Saving Fred.' You have this gummy worm and a Life Savers candy, and you try to get the gummy worm in the Life Savers candy. Also, at the end of the year, we hatch chickens!"

Zoe, 10, Illinois

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

4	6	2	1	5	3
3	5	1	6	2	4
1	4	5	2	3	6
6	2	3	5	4	1
2	3	6	4	1	5
5	1	4	3	6	2

Take five

knife
tongs
apron
ladle
china

All the same

1. tomato
2. mattress
3. climate
4. checkmate
5. mathematics

R S LANDFILL
E E O I
C E A N W A T E R F
Y N T E E
C V C O M P O S T
L I O T
E R S T
S O L A R P O W E R A
N H S
S M O T H E R E A R T H
O E R I
I N E N E R G Y
L I T T E R



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 c) Sushi roll 2 True 3 We the People 4 False. Rodrick is his older brother. 5 The Game 6 True 7 b) Sponsian 8 Sea turtles 9 b) 2.5 million 10 Plants 11 a) Khufu 12 False. It was the third hottest. 13 b) Geese 14 True 15 c) *Where the Wild Things Are*

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 A pair of chefs recently set a world record for creating the largest size of what type of food?

a) Pizza slice b) Sandwich c) Sushi roll

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Dogs can smell when a human is stressed.

True ☐ False ☐

3 What is the theme of this year's White House holiday decorations?

4 True or false? The new movie *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* is about Greg Heffley's relationship with his younger brother Rodrick.

True ☐ False ☐

5 What is the nickname of the annual football game between rival teams Ohio State University and the University of Michigan?

6 True or false? New research has found that fish can do addition and subtraction.

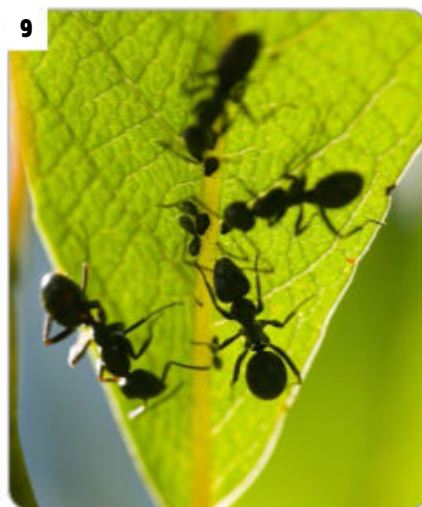
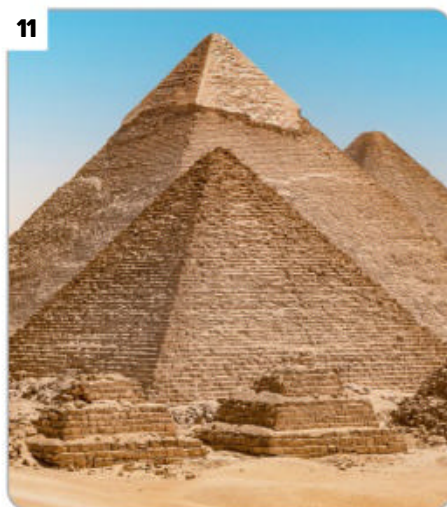
True ☐ False ☐

7 A coin discovered in what is now Transylvania may prove the existence of a Roman emperor with what name?

a) Severus b) Sponsian c) Zeno

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What is marine biologist Callie Veelenturf's favorite animal?



9 About how many ants are there for every human being on Earth?

a) 1.5 million b) 2.5 million

c) 3.5 million

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 In the book *Plotting the Stars 1: Moongarden*, what is responsible for poisoning Earth's air?

11 The largest of the pyramids of Giza was built in honor of which pharaoh?

a) Khufu b) Khafre c) Menkaure

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? This past summer was the hottest on record in the US.

True ☐ False ☐

13 In the movie *Fly Away Home*, Amy and her dad have to help which type of birds fly south?

a) Eagles b) Geese c) Swans

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? The app Duolingo offers lessons in the fictional language Klingon from *Star Trek*.

True ☐ False ☐

15 What is the most borrowed book in the 125-year history of the Brooklyn Public Library?

a) *The Cat in the Hat* b) *The Snowy Day*

c) *Where the Wild Things Are*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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Surprise and Delight This Holiday Season



When you give a gift of *The Week Junior* this holiday season, you inspire a child in your life to explore interests, read about the world around them, and learn something new.

Every week, 32 colorful pages full of thought-provoking articles, eye-catching photos, and big ideas—written especially for kids ages 8 to 14—arrives in the mailbox to surprise and delight young readers.

Give a gift they'll enjoy week after week and save 66% off the single-copy price. All gifts start in January.

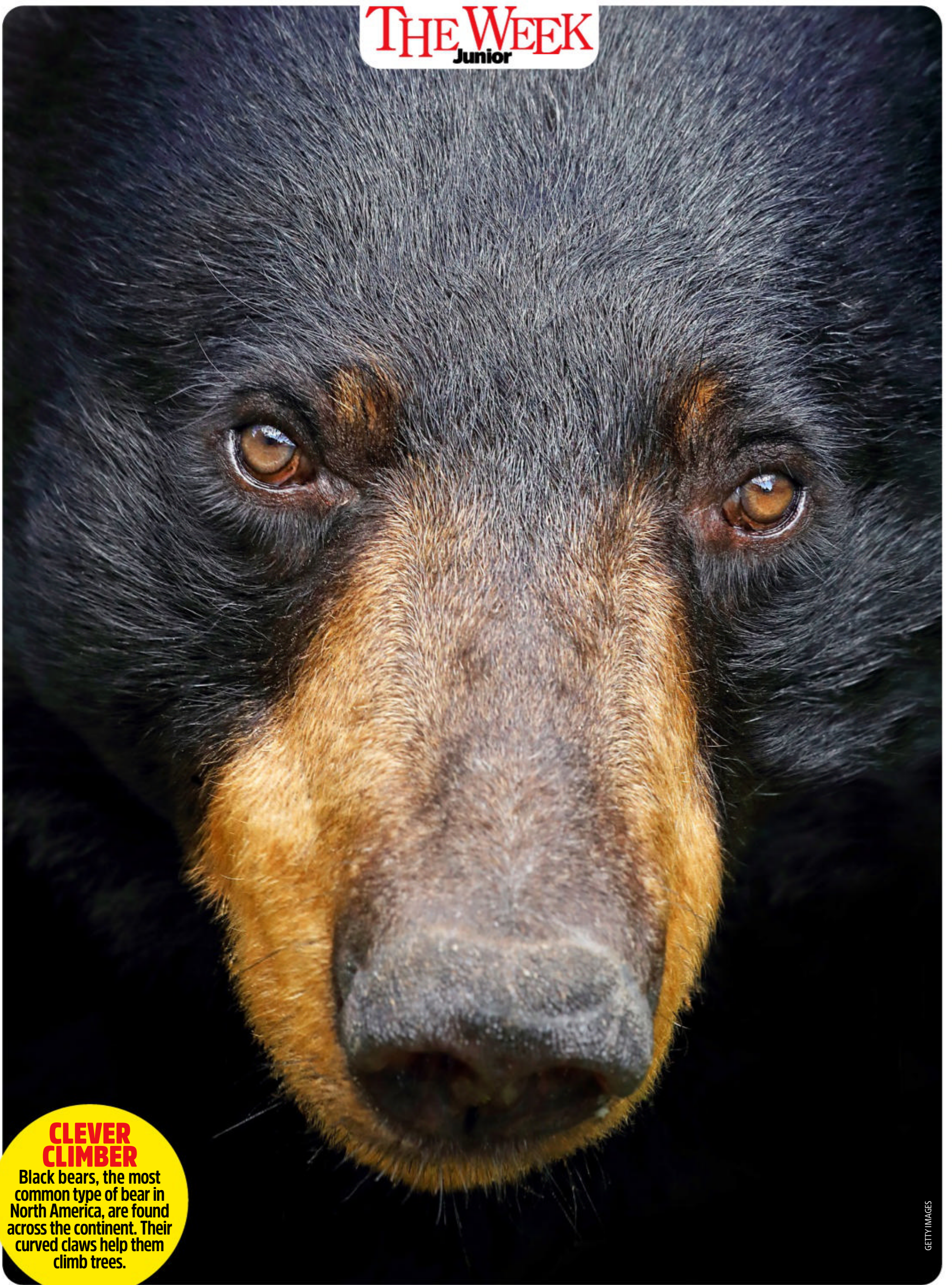


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**CLEVER
CLIMBER**

Black bears, the most common type of bear in North America, are found across the continent. Their curved claws help them climb trees.